Verification of the Railway Claims

609. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that verification of claims is got done by the Office Clerk of Northern Railway unlike other Railways; and

(b) whether it also a fact that verification of the claims is the duty of the Claims Inspector as it was done earlier; if so, why the change has been done in this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, it is the duty of Claims Inspectors to verify the claims.

Recruitment of Sports Persons in Railways

610. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway employees who brought laurel in the recent Asian Games; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to recruit more sports persons in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) 27.

(b) New Sports recruitment policy has been framed to give thrust to transparency in the field of recruitment of sportspersons on the Indian Railways, which envisages recruitment of 70% vacancies in Group 'C' and 100% vacancies in Group 'D' through open advertisements and the remaining 30% vacancies in Group 'C' through talent scouting.

Computer Reservation Centres

611. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rail computer reservation Centre is working now at Imphal in Manipur;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken-up by Government to resume its facilities to the people; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to authorise it to the Travel Agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Computerised reservation office at Imphal is manned by the staff of Manipur State Road Transport Corporation. This reservation office at Imphal is inoperative since 26.11.1998 due to the ongoing strike in the Manipur State Road Transport Corporation.

(b) Manipur Government has been requested to take early action in the matter.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Accidents on the Bombay Suburban Rail Lines

612. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents on the Bombay suburban rail lines during the last two years, ending 31st December, 1998;

(b) the details of losses including human lives and other kinds substained in these accidents;

(c) whether Government have made enquiries into the causes of accidents; if so, the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents; and

(d) the action taken against the persons responsible for the accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The number of accidents on Mumbai Suburban Railway during the last two years are given below.

1997.....16
1998.....14
Total.....30

(b) Casualties

Year	Killed	Injured		Loss to property
		Grievous	Simple	
1997	1	5	6	Rs. 664310
1998	2	..	..	Rs. 510500
Total	3	5	6	Rs. 1174810

(c) and (d) Each of the accident is inquired into by a committee of officers or Commissioner of Railway Safety depending upon the extent of damage. As per findings of the inquiry committee. The main causes of these accidents are human failure, equipment failure, sabotage and other miscellaneous factors. Action under 'Discipline and Appeal Rules' is initiated against the staff found responsible for these accidents. Steps taken to bring down the incidence of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under:—

(i) The work of track circuting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioined on Mumbai suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the the track, sophisticated track recording cars oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold brackage of axles, Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those founds deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष और उसके सदस्यों को सुविधाएं

613. **श्री बालकवि बैरागी:** क्या रेल मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार तथा रेलवे बोर्ड द्वारा रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष एवं सदस्यों को शासकीय कार्यों के लिए यात्रा अवकाश संबंधी यात्रा, तथा सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद यात्रा करते समय कौन-कौन सी सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाती हैं; और

(ख) ये सुविधाएं किस-किस श्रेणी में प्रदान की जाती हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क)

	रेल यात्रा सुविधा	हवाई यात्रा सुविधा
(i) सरकारी कार्य	रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष और सदस्यों को ड्यूटी पर यात्रा करने के लिए गोल्ड पास जारी किए जाते हैं। गोल्ड पास के प्राधिकार से वे अपने परिवार के पात्र सदस्यों के साथ भारतीय रेलवे पर किसी भी श्रेणी में यात्रा कर सकते हैं बशर्ते कि (क) वातानुकूल प्रथम श्रेणी और वातानुकूल स्लीपर/प्रथम श्रेणी में दो शायिकाओं से अधिक अथवा (ख) वातानुकूल स्लीपर/प्रथम श्रेणी में चार शायिकाओं से अधिक अथवा (ग) राजधानी एक्सप्रेस में I-वातानुकूल कूपा या वातानुकूल स्लीपर में चार शायिकाओं से अधिक अथवा (घ) शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस में एक्जीक्यूटिव श्रेणी/कुर्सीयान में 4 सीटों से अधिक का उपयोग नहीं करेंगे।	स्वविवेक से हवाई यात्रा कर सकते हैं।
(ii) अवकाश के दौरान	प्रति वर्ष I-वातानुकूल के 6 सेट और सुविधा टिकट आदेश के 4 सेट। सुविधा पास के प्राधिकार से रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष और सदस्य अकेले अथवा अपने परिवार के पात्र सदस्यों के साथ राजधानी/शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों सहित सभी गाड़ियों में किसी भी श्रेणी में यात्रा कर सकते हैं बशर्ते कि वे I-वातानुकूल में दो शायिकाएं या एक्जीक्यूटिव श्रेणी में दो सीटों से अधिक का उपयोग नहीं करेंगे। राजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों के मामले में वे या तो I-वातानुकूल/वातानुकूल स्लीपर में 2 शायिकाओं या वातानुकूल 3 टियर में 4 शायिकाओं का उपयोग कर सकते हैं। यह प्रतिबंध अन्य श्रेणियों और अन्य गाड़ियों में यात्रा करने पर लागू नहीं होगा।	कुछ नहीं
(iii) अधिवर्षिता के बाद	सेवानिवृत्ति पश्चात प्रति वर्ष प्रथम श्रेणी-ए मानार्थ पास के तीन सेट। सेवानिवृत्ति पश्चात मानार्थ पास के प्राधिकार से रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष और सदस्य अकेले अथवा अपने परिवार के पात्र सदस्यों के साथ राजधानी/शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों सहित सभी गाड़ियों में किसी भी श्रेणी में यात्रा कर सकते हैं बशर्ते कि वे I-वातानुकूल में दो शायिकाएं या एक्जीक्यूटिव श्रेणी में दो सीटों से अधिक का उपयोग नहीं करेंगे। राजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों के मामले में वे	कुछ नहीं